

Commissioner's Report
Wednesday - January 15, 1992

Gentlemen:

At the beginning of the irrigation season (November 1, 1990), Utah Lake measured -6.70 feet below compromise which was its lowest elevation since September 1961. The upcoming irrigation season looked bleak with a strong possibility that we might not fulfill the irrigation requirements for all primary and secondary users under the District. Luckily, December 1990 was a strong precipitation month and a large amount of snowfall covered the Utah Lake drainage basin. By January 1, 1991, the Lake had increased to an elevation of -5.80 feet below compromise and things began to look a little better.

We had a relatively wet spring and by the time our irrigation season started (May 15, 1991), the Lake had risen to -4.30 feet. The Precipitation Measuring Station at the Pumping Plant registered 1.87 inches of rain during the month of April. This helped us a great deal and then we were backed in May with another 3.34 inches. What this added precipitation did was fill Deer Creek Reservoir to the point that in June it began to spill. This basically eliminated the necessity of the Salt Lake County Water Conservancy District's pumping water directly from Utah Lake and slowed the irrigation requirements throughout the Salt Lake Valley.

By June 1 the Lake had risen to its high point of -4.25 feet below compromise. This basically assured us that we would complete our irrigation season without restricting use by the irrigation companies. As an added insurance, in the month of September, we had eight days of continual rain and a precipitation measurement in the amount of 2.28 inches. We finished off our irrigation season on October 15 with the Lake at -5.70 feet below compromise which is a foot higher than our November 1, 1990, reading. As of January 1, 1992, the Lake has risen to -5.50 feet below compromise which is 0.30 feet

higher than the same period last year. If our precipitation is at normal or above, we should have no problem in supplying our irrigators for the 1992 year.

The State Engineer and his staff have been greatly concerned with the distribution of water rights in the Utah Lake drainage basin and, during 1991, he called numerous public hearings and meetings with all parties concerned. Over the time frame, there have been two or three drafts for the new plan for this system. The major concern of the Canal Companies under the system was to protect not only the flow rights out of Utah Lake, but to protect their storage rights within Utah Lake itself. The State Engineer's final proposal has not been submitted to the water users, but I definitely feel that things change and the State Engineer is looking out on our behalf.

Two other projects were undertaken in 1991, the first being the addition and remodeling of the home our superintendent lives in. It has added not only a much better living condition, but a great deal of uplift to the Smith family. The Canal Companies constructed a new Measuring Station at the Jordan Narrows on the Jordan River - we now have a very accurate record of water flow in the Jordan River year round.

Mr. Rindlisbach's salary, he shall be entitled to two weeks vacation, with pay, said time period to be approved by Commissioner Gardner in advance of said vacation. Voted and passed unanimously.

Mr. Wilson indicated the next order of business was the selection of a Committee to represent this District and transact any business in its behalf. Mr. Wilson also suggested that all members of the District be part of the Committee and by majority rule any business could be transacted for the District. A motion was then made by Mr. Marcovecchio, seconded by Mr. Mackay, that this procedure be adopted. Voted and passed unanimously.

Mr. Wilson then turned the meeting over to Mr. Sim for his report on the proposed distribution system for the Utah Lake Drainage Basin. Mr. Sim indicated that there would be another meeting held in April for an updated draft of this proposal. He advised all members present to submit to the Division of Water Rights their input or objections to any section of the report they deem significant. After some discussion regarding this proposal, it was generally agreed that the overall proposal would be beneficial to all the water users within this district.

There being no further business, Mr. Wilson adjourned the meeting at 10:55 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Charles W. Wilson, Chairman

David B. Gardner, Secretary